

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/637,139

Examiner

Aaron M. Dunwoody

Applicant(s)

LONGACRE ET AL.

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to appeal brief filed 4/20/2006.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-9,11-14,19 and 20.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

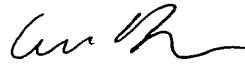
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____


Aaron Dunwoody
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott M Slomowitz on 6/23/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A joint restraint assembly for connecting pipe ends together, or to other objects, by gripping the outer surface of the a pipe, the joint restraint assembly comprising:

a body encircling the pipe, with said body having a plurality of cavities adjacent the pipe and at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores disposed through said body, each threaded bore of said at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores being in communication with a respective cavity; and

a threaded bolt extending through each of said threaded bores;

a segment disposed within each of said cavities in said body, said segment comprising a first portion that contacts a surface of said cavity and a second portion that penetrates the outer surface of the pipe[[.]];

wherein said threaded bolt displaces said segment so that said second portion initially engages the outer surface of the pipe; and

wherein as ~~said segment pivoting about said first portion, which maintains contact with said surface of said cavity throughout increasing~~ mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe increases pipe pull-out forces, said segment pivots about said first portion while said segment loses contact with said threaded bolt, and whereby said segment maintains contact with the corner of the cavity while ~~for driving~~ said second portion deeper into the outer surface of the pipe in proportion to the applied mechanical or internal pressure loading, said segment resisting pipe pull-out in proportion to the increased mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 9. (Amended) A joint restraint assembly for connecting pipe ends together, or to other objects, by gripping the outer surface of ~~the~~ a pipe, the joint restraint assembly comprising:

a body encircling the pipe, with said body having a plurality of cavities adjacent the pipe and at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores disposed through said body, each threaded bore of said at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores being in communication with a respective cavity;

a threaded bolt extending through each of said threaded bores;

a segment disposed within each of said cavities in said body, said segment comprising a first portion that contacts a ~~surface~~ corner of said cavity and a cam surface

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that engages and rotates against, but does not substantially penetrate, the outer surface of the pipe[.];

wherein said threaded bolt displaces said segment so that said cam surface initially engages the outer surface of the pipe; and

wherein as said segment pivoting about said first portion, which maintains contact with said surface of said cavity throughout increasing mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe increases pipe pull-out forces, so that said segment pivots about said first portion and said cam surface rotates against the outer surface of the pipe, while said segment loses contact with said threaded bolt, and said segment maintains contact with said corner of the cavity, in proportion to the applied mechanical or internal pressure loading, said segment resisting pipe pull-out in proportion to the increased mechanical loading or internal pipe pressure.

Claim 10. (Canceled).


Claim 19. (Amended) The joint restraint assembly of Claim 4 wherein said first portion comprises a segment corner opposite said at least one edge, said segment corner contacting said ~~surface~~ corner of said cavity.

Claim 20. (Amended) The joint restraint assembly of Claim 9 wherein said first portion comprises a segment corner opposite said cam surface, said segment corner contacting said ~~surface~~ of said cavity.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Aaron M Dunwoody
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